being referred to the UN Security Council, and believes that International community needs to keep Iran engaged in a dialogue to resolve the issue. India welcomes the cooperation that Iran has been extending to the IAEA to enable it to fulfill its mandate.

Agreement with IAEA

1717. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US administration has stipulated that India sign a more restrictive safeguard agreement with IAEA than other nuclear weapon States including US has done;

(b) whether India has made any alteration on its stated stand on this issue;

(c) if so, details thereto; and

(d) the response of Government to the US stand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) The US administration has not stipulated that India sign a more restrictive safeguard agreement with IAEA than other nuclear weapon States including US have done.

(b) and (c) India has not made any alteration to its stated stand.

(d) During the meeting of the Working Group on Nuclear issue on 21 October 2005, it was made clear to the US side that the only frame work was the July 18, 2005 understanding: that Congressional concerns could not lead to any change of goal posts; that India's benefits and advantages would be the same as other leading countries with advanced nuclear technologies such as the United States; and that we will place voluntarily our civilian nuclear facilities under safeguards and would negotiate an Additional Protocol.

Simplification of Passport form

1718. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have not been able to design simple passport application form;

(b) whether the present form contains repetitive questions and also are ambiguous etc.;

(c) whether people face severe harassment in getting a five year passport extended to 10 years; and

(d) the steps Government propose to simplify the applications form and also make it easier to get the tenure of the passport extended without too much harassment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Government has made concerted efforts to design a simple passport application form without compromising essential data requirement. At present, the passport application form consists of 4 pages only compared to 9 pages prior to July 2004.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. Passports are now being renewed for a period of ten years except for minors in whose cases the passports are issued for five years at a time.

(d) Simplification of Passport application form is an ongoing process and the application form is redesigned from time to time keeping in view the convenience of the passport seeking public.

Denial of Russian visa to Indians

1719. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many prominent Indian Industrialists have been denied visa to Russia in spite of personal guarantee from Indian Ambassador to Russia;

(b) if so, the details in this regard with the names of Industrialists having denied visas;

(c) whether the Indian Government have lodged serious compliant as India has expressed interest in sourcing oil and gas from Russia in long term bilateral agreement; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?